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Clark Spranget
Business Manager

November 25, 2002

Chairman Michael Powell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Chairman Powell,

On behalf of the 425 Montana members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), I am writing you today to encourage you and your colleagues to quickly approve Qwest's application to re-enter the long distance market in Montana.

The IBEW is Montana's largest telecommunications labor group and we believe Qwest's re-entry into Montana's long distance business will both preserve good-paying jobs and save customers money.

AU jobs in Montana's challenging economic conditions are important today, but these jobs in telecommunications are particularly important. They represent a connection to the new economy, which holds great promise and many opportunities for the state.

A recent study by a professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Telecommunications Economics Research Program, found that Montana consumers would benefit if Qwest is allowed to re-enter the long distance market.

According to the MIT study, restricting Qwest from competing for long distance business in Montana may be costing Montana consumers as much as \$30 Million per year. That is money our members, their families and our customers could use to help make ends meet in an already challenging economy.

The faster the FCC approves Qwest's application, the faster these benefits can be made available to Montana's hard working families and small businesses. I respectfully request that you act affirmatively on their request as soon as possible as it will be beneficial to the customers, employees and the state of Montana.

Sincerely,

Clark N Spranget
Clark N Spranget
Business Manager

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